

# Chicago Voters Rank Housing Affordability As Their Top Concern Over Crime



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**(CHICAGO)** – With property taxes on the rise, Chicagoans now rank housing affordability as their top concern—even over crime, according to a newly released poll.

**Chicago city residents**, 41% of those polled, identified housing affordability—specifically property taxes and ‘costs’ like insurance and utilities—as their primary concern versus crime and gun violence. The survey was commissioned by Illinois REALTORS® and independently conducted by Statara, a leading research firm that has conducted opinion surveys and qualitative research for more than thirty years.

## POLL RESPONSES

## FACTS

**Cost Crisis: 81% of those responding said that the cost of buying a home is too high.**

- ✓ Median home prices have jumped over 20% in only a few years.
- ✓ Rising property taxes have led to increased vacancies, decreased property values, shuttered businesses, displaced residents, and less housing stability.

**Quality of life impact: 62% said that property taxes have a “huge” effect on their ability to live comfortably.**

- ✓ Households in New City, Lower West Side, Bridgeport, McKinley Park, Chicago Lawn, Greater Grand Crossing, Englewood, and West Englewood ALREADY tend to pay more than 20% of their income on property taxes.

**Government Inaction: 82% of voters believe elected officials are not doing enough to combat rising property taxes.**

- ✓ Property taxes have increased every year for the last 30 years, more than doubled over the last decade and have now caused delinquencies in some neighborhoods to skyrocket between 10-15%.

**New ideas to increase housing availability: An overwhelming majority strongly favor Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and other solutions to increase inventory and affordability.**

- ✓ Chicagoans want barriers removed so families can add more accessory dwelling units.
- ✓ Those ADU provisions alone will almost immediately send a message to builders, developers and investors that Chicago’s housing economy is ready to grow.

